

I am *P. australis* to the right; but
to my surprise I find that the turpen-
tine just exuded, from latter rotates to
the left! showing either a compound
constitution of the exudation, or a molecular
change produced by the heat of distilla-
tion, possibly both suppositions are true.

I shall supply myself with samples and
carry them back to my laboratory, to study,
for the history of our turpentines is not yet
written. Could you get me the fresh exu-
lation from *P. resinosa*, which is I believe
the only northern pine not also within
our limits?

I am also looking more closely at
our *Smilaxes*, and feel satisfied that
in the books there are more species than in
the woods by about one half. Elliott has
13 and I can only make out about 9, al-
though I must confess that I have put
some species of the books under me, *S. tern-
stroederi* Ell. that I fear it is too sweeping

Georgetown S.C.
10 April 1837

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your
kind letter. I can appreciate the
value of a letter from one pressed
with occupations. I am often in the
same condition myself. I have just
finished with our College examinations
here besides my own duties as Prof.
I have to play Secretary, gratis, just
for the pin of the thing, and have filled
up and despatched all the monthly
returns of Scholarship for the last year.
The term returns of same for the term
ending with examination. I took
three nights work, consecutive, at
8^o for our State Mag. Observer at
his Magnetic Observatory, finished

with the calculations from the obs. for
position of his meridian mark, to test
for him the accuracy of its position. I
have brought up my correspondence
to date, and finished a few more an-
noying trials one of which was getting
rid of a refractory tenant who would
not move from property in my hands
for management, and threaten
a suit for return for ejectment.

I have despatched all these matters
and turned my back on them for a
few days and have ^{come} to pass my
vacation in quiet with a friend
in the country.

I don't expect all that to be
very entertaining to you, but to show
that I can value a letter any way,
and as a somewhat lengthy preface
to a shorter story, which is this.

Craving about in our swamps I
have found *Epidendrum corymbosum*
on Nypsa. 30 or 40 feet from the ground,
and have secured specimens in good
condition. Will you have any living
specimens for cultivation? That is
the point my exordium was tending to.
I will be glad to send you some, but
as they may not be wanted, I ask first.
Shall I send by Express which I think
they would readily stand, or wait for
a vessel direct to Boston?

I am also looking over our Pines
more particularly than before, and
examining the temperatures of the differ-
ent species. The spirits of temp. from
the European *P. maritima* rotates
polarise light to the left and that

negative. I have never learned them yet.

Necessity compels me to be cautious in my outlay of money, and especially for non-essentials, or perishable articles herbaria among the number; but I will take a copy of *Sillib. Musci Exsic.* at \$20, provided that completes the work, and includes our Southern ones as far as known.

Address me at Charleston as usual, I must be back in a few days.

I am going to distribute the *Epidendrum* to friends for cultivation, and will include you if you desire it; you may however have it already from some point as far south. How far south does it extend? This must be nearly its northern limit.

Questions enough. More work for you. Wish you joy. Good bye.

Yours truly
Lewis R. Gibbs

Wm. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass.

a change of work species. I find seven pretty distinct species around me at this place (4 miles west of Georgetown on Sampit Creek) making allowance for variations. *S. ovata* of Pursh I cannot see but expect to find it later near ^{or} the sea coast. *S. Pseudo-china*, which I thought was common and well known I cannot find or at least ^{cannot} confidently distinguish. I will continue the examination through the year, as this is not the best, perhaps it is the worst season. The berries are getting scarce, and the berried (fertile) individuals ^{or stalks} are those that have lost their leaves, so that I have but one guide instead of two. The red berries of the plant I take to be *S. Walteri* of Pursh, are certainly not acuminate as Walter of Pursh describes it. Have you it with you, acuminate?

If I thought that they could be had for the asking (contrary to experience

Fuchsia has *Lichens*, *Exsic.* or *Lichens*, of the kind made way; it completed and does it include any as far as known? *Strombosia* with *Sillib. Musci Exsic.*

however) I would ask for specimens
of your northern Smilaxes or at least
one *S. hispida* included which we
have not, also for cones and leaves of your
northern Pines. But as that won't do,
I must take to borrowing, and as ~~we~~
have but a pretty stout bundle of
plants for more than 15 years,
I think we might venture to borrow
some for 15 months or so. Depend on
me your vouchers, and I will
do the best I can with the materials
available to me, one cannot do more.

Dietrich's work will be useful
to me, thank you for mentioning it.
The only Synopsis I have is Persoon's
little work, next to that is Loudon's
Encyclopaedia, and with careful man-
agement I have seen it on several

occasions, ~~made it~~ do me good service.
Does Dietrich's work contain the Ferns?
Persoon's does not, and I have no
Synop. Filicum except such as Loudon
offers. Since I have interested myself
with the Pines and with the Conifers
generally, I feel the want of a Synopsis
coniferarum. How near does Loudon
with the two Supplements (both of
which I have) supply the deficiency?

Miss Murray's Fern I took at first
for *Lygodium palmatum* & am wrong
but she said it certainly was not collected
in the wild state, and on comparing with
a specimen I found it different. I think
you got the name although you do not
say of what country it is native. Have you
heard recently from Fern? Does she mention
having received from me living specimens
of *Agave virginica* & *Thalia dealbata*?
I think I asked you that before, and I suppose
by your silence that you and we would be